



## *STATEMENT*

*Of Mr. Ivica Dronjic, DPR, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UN in Geneva, Head of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the*

*4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Parties to the  
Convention on Cluster Munition*

*Lusaka, Zambia, 9-13 September 2013.*

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President, Excellences,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Zambia on taking over the Presidency of the 4<sup>th</sup> MSP of the CCM. I bid you every success in performing this honorable duty, and I extend the full support of my delegation. I would also like to add my voice to those thanking Norway, and ambassador Kongstad in particular, for the outstanding stewardship of the 3<sup>rd</sup> MSP.

My country fully aligned itself with the general statement delivered yesterday by EU under Agenda Item 9. However, I would like to make a few additional points in a national capacity, under the Item 10 (c).

B&H has ratified the CCM in June 2010 and immediately started implementing it into the national legislation. The state institutions in charge of implementation are: Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Commission for Demining and BiH MAC. Third year into the implementation process, I am content to report that the situation is much better than with the APLC: All the necessary legislation is in place, the national sub-strategy has been adopted and is currently being revised, the suspected territory has been marked, and the clearance operation is well under way, thanks to the NPA, who is the only certified agency for removal of the cluster UXOs in my country. At this pace, it is expected that we will complete all the obligations stemming from the CCM by the year 2016, two years ahead of the deadline that was set for us.

In the interest of time, I will not expand this statement repeating the technical data and statistics contained in the reports that I submitted recently to the interim ISU, save for the few most relevant ones;

The suspected area with UXOs stands at 10,66 km<sup>2</sup>. Out of that, 3-4 km<sup>2</sup> of the really infested area will be prepared for clearance, while the rest of it will be released through non-technical methods. In 2012 the NPA opened 10 tasks, and cleared and released for use 800.000 m<sup>2</sup> of the contaminated land. The tasks have been completed in the municipalities of Livno, Citluk, Jajce and Krupa.

The last casualty from the cluster bombs occurred in 2009, a year before the ratification of the CCM, and there has not been any casualty since. There has been 231 person injured by the cluster UXOs, 43 of them fataly. Unfortunately, in the last year we had 25 casualties of

UXOs other than cluster; 12 of which were fatal. Among those victims there were 6 children, and 2 of them died. Therefore, victims' assistance program in BiH remains an ongoing task.

National legislation, both on the state and the entity levels, have made provisions for inclusion, rehabilitation, re-socialization and social security protection to the victims, in accordance with our obligations stemming from the CRPD, that we are a party to. However, the situation on the ground shows that the provisions of the law pertaining to employment of the victims are easily by-passed by the employers, social benefits are minimal due to the fragility of the social security funds, and access to the prosthetics and other technical equipment is not based on individual needs of the victims.

**Coordination and Planning** is done through BIHMAC. Meetings of the Working Group comprised of GO and NGOs took place regularly, hence the revision of the National sub-strategy for 2014-2019 is being done in close cooperation with the organizations that represent the victims. The government network of the victims assistance, due to rather complicated structure of the state, functions in parallel on different entity levels, and problem with NGOs and organizations representing victims is that they tend to deal directly with the donors, with no reporting obligations towards the Government. However, it has to be duly noted that the Civil Society and NGOs made a great impact in rehabilitation and inclusion of the victims in BiH. One of the biggest projects for victim's assistance, financed by the EU, has just started, with the main objective to provide economic independence of the victims and their families through creation of the employment opportunities.

In conclusion, Madam President, allow me to mention that BiH proudly served 2 years term as a Coordinator for Victims Assistance, jointly with Austria and Afghanistan. Yesterday, we handed over this honorable duty to Mexico, and I wish them every success in their endeavors. My country stands ready to participate in all the activities undertaken by the Presidency in the future, and as affected country, we will spare no effort till we see the CCM fully implemented.

Thank you for your attention.